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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,621	12/03/2001	Susan H. Hardin	00007/02UTL	9970
23873	7590	07/12/2006		EXAMINER
ROBERT W STROZIER, P.L.L.C				RILEY, JEZIA
PO BOX 429				
BELLAIRE, TX 77402-0429			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1637	

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/007,621	HARDIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jezia Riley	1637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10,12-31 and 35-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-6,9,14,16-20,30 and 41 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 7,8,10,12,13,15,21-29,35-40 and 42-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-10,12-31 and 35-47 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/22/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 1637

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 7, 8, 10, 12-13, 15, 21-29, 31, 35-40, 42-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kao et al. (6,399,335 B1).

Kao et al. provides methods and compositions for polymerizing a particular nucleotide with a polymerase. In general, the method involves (a) forming a mixture of a polymerase and a nucleoside triphosphate (NTP) comprising α , β and γ phosphates and a γ -phosphate phosphoester-linked functional group; and (b) incubating the mixture under conditions wherein the polymerase catalyzes cleavage of the NTP between the α and β phosphates, liberating a pyrophosphate comprising the functional group and polymerizing the resultant nucleoside monophosphate. i.e. incorporates the nucleoside monophosphate in a nascent polynucleotide. Col. 2-4.

A variety of functional groups compatible with the polymerization reaction are provided. In one embodiment, the functional group is a detectable label and the method further comprises the step of detecting the label, wherein a wide variety of chromogenic and luminogenic labels are provided.

In another embodiment, the functional group is a cell delivery enhancing moiety, -OR, wherein R is independently selected from: substituted or unsubstituted (C1-C18) alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and aryl, each inclusive of carbocyclic and heterocyclic. These substituents provide enhanced therapeutic availability through enhanced gut or blood stability, cellular and/or membrane permeability, host phosphatase stability, etc. This aspect provides a wide variety of generally membrane permeable, relatively hydrophobic R substituents.

The invention provides kits for assaying polymerase reactions in standard laboratory spectrophotometers. The kits are designed so that the researcher can replace one or more components with the sample they wish to test.

Col. 4 shows exemplary of detectable label (Table 1A (4aminophenol for example) and labeled NTP's (Table 1B). see also col. 7-12 . Which are viewed to be inclusive of the instant claims 23-26 for example.

5. Claims 7, 8, 10, 12-13, 15, 21-24, 27-29, 31-33,36-40, 42-44, 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Williams (WO 00/36151).

Williams et al. provide assay methods for the detection of pyrophosphate cleavage, which is advantageous in number of biological reactions. For example, in DNA polymerase reaction (pages 7-8). Williams et al. discloses a method comprising the step of adding a modified nucleotide having a γ -phosphate with a fluorophore moiety attached thereto (pages 4-5, 16). Said method comprising a nucleotide polymerizing agent (polymerase). Further page 19 discloses that there are many linking moieties and methodologies for attaching fluorophore to nucleotides. Figure 4 shows the preferred linkers, which is viewed to be inclusive of instant claim 24. Additionally page 21 shows that the linker can comprise aryl groups (line 13). Suitable fluorophore include EDANS, (page 17, last paragraph). Page 7 shows that suitable NTPs include ATP. Williams et al. provides kits and integrated for practicing the assays (page 5). The polymerase is a DNA polymerase such as DNA polymerase I, II, or III, for example (page 8).

6. Response to Applicant's Arguments:

Applicant argues that the references do not teach the use of tagged dNTPs to increase polymerase fidelity. This is not convincing because the references do show modified nucleotide having a γ -phosphate with a fluorophore moiety attached thereto for DNA polymerase reaction (see rejection above), therefore being identical to the instant modified nucleotide

As it is pointed in *In re Fitzgerald* (205 USPQ), page 594, 2nd col., 1st full paragraph, supports the shifting of the burden of proof to the applicant that the instantly

claimed invention is novel and unobvious over the prior art. Since both the prior arts and the instant application prepare and use composition which appeared to be identical, (modified tagged nucleotide for polymerase reaction), the prior arts composition will inherently produce an extended primer having reduced incorrect base incorporations, suggesting the instant application under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Further the applicants state "The use of tagged nucleotide to construct methods where unsuitable polymerases can be made suitable, or to construct libraries of nucleotide with varying amounts of fidelity – tuned, random mis-incorporations- is made possible only by this invention." In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jezia Riley whose telephone number is 571-272-0786. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

7/8/06



JESSIA RILEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER